

HCS HB 387 -- PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

SPONSOR: Frederick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 19 to 2.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the scope of practice for physician assistants. The substitute:

(1) Changes the definition of "supervision" by repealing the requirement that a physician assistant work in the same facility as the supervising physician 66% of the time the physician assistant provides care. The substitute requires a physician assistant to only practice where the supervising physician routinely provides care, except for existing patients in the patient's home and correctional facilities;

(2) Requires supervising physicians and physician assistants to sign an attestation stating that the physician will provide supervision appropriate to the assistant's training and the assistant will not practice beyond his or her training and experience;

(3) Requires the physician assistant and supervising physician to work in the same facility at least four hours for every 14 days of patient care;

(4) Allows a physician assistant to practice in locations within 50 miles of the supervising physician. The 30 mile limitation is repealed;

(5) Repeals the provision requiring a waiver for physician-physician assistant teams and places no supervision requirements in addition to federal law on the teams to practice in rural health clinics;

(6) Repeals the provision requiring the supervising physician's name, address, and telephone number be on prescriptions for controlled substances when prescribed by a physician assistant; and

(7) Revises the definition of "physician assistant supervision agreement" by requiring the agreement to contain complete contact information of the supervising physician and physician assistant, locations where the physician assistant is authorized to practice, all specialty or board certifications of the supervising physician, and the manner of supervision provided by the physician.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the growing need for medical care

throughout the state is putting a lot of stress on the health care team. Removing some of the restrictions placed on physician assistants will improve the access to care for patients, especially in rural parts of Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fredrick; Paul Winter, Missouri Academy of Physician Assistants; Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Academy of Family Physicians; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists; and Dr. Steven Witt.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.